B. Utilisation of Local Bodies Grants

		Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Total utilisaiton of grants by PRIs of which Amount and Percentage of grants spent on the schemes of water supply and sanitation	
2.	Total Utilisation of grants by ULBs of which Amount and Percentage of grants spent on schemes of Solid Waste Management	

5. Whether the accounting formats and auditing responsibilities have been delegated to the C & AG?

6. State Government should also furnish any other additional information which may be required and specified by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj/Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation, in case of PRIs/ ULBs.

Certified that the Local Bodies Grants have been released to the elected local bodies with in 15 days from the date of release of grants by the Central Government.

FINANCE SECRETARY

GOVERNMENT OF.....

Panchayati Raj Institutions

183. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govemment want to have the conferences held at resorts where meaningful deliberaitons are possible;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry is aiming at boosting the Panchayati Raj Institutions and dovetailing IT with its daily operations;

(d) if so, the details worked out so far;

(e) the present status thereof; and

(f) the objectives set to achieve within a time-frame?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKARAIYAR): (a) and (b) The meaningful deliberation have been held at all conferences organized by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. Besides, conferences, the Minister has participated in nearly 75 Gram Sabha meetings and met with about 150 Gram Panchayats, Intermediate Panchayats and District Panchayats in 17 States and one Union Territory. Full details are available in the Ministry's report: "The State of the Panchayat—A Mid Term Review and Appraisal" which has been laid on the Table of the House.

(c) to (e) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is preparing a mission mode project for e-governance at the Gram Panchayat level under the National e-Governance Plan. It is envisaged that this will enable all Panchayats in the country to progressively obtain the benefits of Information Technology ir\ implementing e-Governance solutions with reference to identified services delivered at the Panchayat level. This is a new initiative. A few Panchayats in the States have been implementing pilots project for e-Governance at the Panchayat level with support of the State Government concerned. It is under toe Central Plan that common standards and benchmarks will be developed so as to ensure the integrated application of Information Technology to further good governance at the Panchayat level.

(f) The objective is to support all State Governments and Panchayats to make effective use of IT in:

* Training and Capacity Building;
* Improving internal management processes and decision making in Panchayats;
* Panchayats are being encouraged to use IT to better deliver their mandated services to their citizens;
* Panchayats using IT to better deliver its mandated services to its citizens;
* States and Panchayats using IT for electronic tagging and tracking of funds transferred to Panchayats from higher level of governments, including rapid bank transfer of funds, tracking fund transfers to, and expenditures of the Panchayats;

* Using IT as a medium of e-Procurement.

MoU with Government of **Goa**

184. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed a memorandum of Understanding with Government of Goa as regards devolving more powers to the local bodies;

(b) if so, what are the powers proposed to be given to Zilla Panchayats, Municipal Corporations, Municipalities and Village Panchayats in the State; and

(c) the other details of the MoU?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYAT! RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKARAIYAR): (a) to (c) A copy of the Joint Statement of Conclusions signed by CM, Goa and the Union Minister of Panchayati Raj on 12 April, 2006 at the conclusion of the latter's Panchayati Raj tour of Goa is attached at Statement *(See* below). It may be noted that the Statement covers only Panchayats, which fall within the Union Minister's remit, not Municipalities, which do not. The Statement was reviewed at a meeting in Goa between the Union Minister, on the one hand, and the Chief Minister and Minister of Panchayati Raj, Government of Goa, on the other on 19 October, 2006. Key additional points agreed between them are set out below:

(i) Every efforts will be made to issue and Activity Map by mid-December and, if required, complete the exercise after the Panchayat elections.

(ii) Regarding creation of a Panchayat Sector Window in the State Budget for each line Department concerned, it was agreed that the Goa Government would attempt to commence this exercise at the Revised Estmate 2006-07 stage. In any case, the Panchayat Sector Window would definitely be opened in BE 2007-08.

(iii) Line department staff must be deputed to ZillaA/illage Panchayats, as appropriate, along with the devolution of functions and finances as stipulated in the Activity Map as otherwise implementation will suffer. Progressively, as vacancies occur, such staff may be directly recruited to the Panchayat.